



CMA PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

as of February 17, 2010:

- Anniston Chemical Activity, Ala.:** Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has ordered a static detonation chamber from the Swedish company, DYNASAFE AB, to process remaining mustard-filled munitions that have deteriorated over time. Scheduled to arrive this summer, the chamber will be used to destroy small numbers of munitions at a time while Team Anniston works toward meeting the international treaty requirements in a safe and compliant manner.
- Deseret Chemical Depot, Utah:** Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility has safely processed 16,037 mustard agent-filled 4.2-inch mortars. Deseret Chemical Depot workers and a special U.S. Army technical team began a two-to-three-month project on Feb. 17 to X-ray more than 300 over-packed projectiles and mortars for destruction using an explosive detonation technology (EDT). The X-rays will help URS sub-contractor Versar, Inc. gain a better understanding of the over-packed munitions as they prepare for EDT operations, which are slated to begin in early 2011.
- Newport Chemical Depot, Ind.:** Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) systems contractor notified the government that NECDF physical closure is complete. NECDF workers continue administrative closure activities, focusing on records archiving, property disposition and contracts closeout. CMA is on track to transfer the Newport Chemical Depot property to the Department of the Army Base Realignment and Closure Commission on July 18, 2010.
- Pine Bluff Chemical Activity, Ark.:** Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) received approval from the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality of its Temporary Authorization Request to allow installation of a Heel Transfer System (HTS) at the Bulk Drain Station (BDS). The BDS is where ton containers (TCs) are punched and drained of mustard agent. The HTS will allow PBCDF to more efficiently process TCs with excess heel quantities—residual agent that normally remains inside the TCs after they are drained. On Jan. 29, the Department of the Army Inspector General completed the Chemical Surety Inspection of the PBCDF and found no failing deficiencies.
- Umatilla Chemical Depot, Ore.:** Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) resumed mustard agent processing on Jan. 24, after a three-month pause, and continues preparations for an upcoming Agent Trial Burn/Comprehensive Performance Test. As of mid-February, the UMCDF has eliminated about 7 percent of its mustard agent TCs and 41 percent of the total chemical agent stored at the Umatilla Chemical Depot.

The U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency 2009 Year in Review

SAFETY IN NUMBERS

If you asked the general public which industry had the lowest recordable injury rate (RIR) in CY2009, commercial banks, florists or chemical weapons demilitarization sites, what answer would they give? The work force at the U.S. Army Chemical Materials Agency (CMA) could proudly tell them the correct answer: CMA's 12-month demil RIR of 0.5 was the lowest of the three.

In addition to this remarkable safety record, CMA can reflect back with a great sense of pride on all of its accomplishments in 2009. Many significant milestones were achieved as CMA continued its mission to safely destroy stockpiled chemical weapons at four operating destruction sites, safely store chemical agent munitions at six facilities and continue to make progress toward meeting the 2012 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) deadline.

In 2009, three operating sites, the Tooele Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (TOCDF), the Umatilla Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (UMCDF) and the Newport Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (NECDF) all received the highest workplace safety recognition, "Star" status, under the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) of the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). VPP Star status represents the highest safety recognition issued by the federal government and is OSHA's official recognition of exemplary occupational safety and health.

In June 2009, the Pine Bluff Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (PBCDF) achieved a safety milestone when it reached two million hours without an injury requiring days away from work. PBCDF employs more than 700 workers and subcontractors who continuously focus on safety for themselves and their co-workers. Then, in July 2009, PBCDF set another safety milestone when it surpassed one million safe work hours without a recordable injury—a first for any chemical demilitarization site.

"I am pleased that the work force at the PBCDF demonstrates CMA's commitment to safety in their day-to-day destruction operations as shown by their achieving this nearly-unparalleled safety milestone," stated CMA Director Conrad F. Whyne.

Also in June, the UMCDF surpassed five million hours without a lost-time accident. It had been 1,067 days, or nearly three years since a UMCDF employee missed work because of an accident.

DESTRUCTION PROGRESS

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At the end of 2008, CMA announced a major milestone with the elimination of nerve agent VX that it was responsible for destroying in the nation's stockpile. On Dec. 24, 2008, the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility (ANCDF) destroyed the last of its VX stockpile, marking the end of VX in CMA's destruction facilities. This was a great accomplishment and a precursor to a successful 2009 for CMA.

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In April 2009, the Army reached the 60% destroyed milestone of the U.S. declared stockpile under the CWC, which reduced the overall continued storage risk by 94 percent.

In May, the Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project (NSCMP) completed the safe destruction of Chemical Agent Identification Sets recovered during an environmental monitoring effort at Redstone Arsenal, Ala. NSCMP completed another successful treatment mission in July at Dugway Proving Ground, Utah, destroying recovered chemical warfare projectiles and bomblets with its transportable Explosive Destruction System (EDS).

"This mission is another example of CMA's competent on-site treatment process using the EDS," said Jeffrey Harris, Deputy Project Manager for NSCMP.

In 2009, the UMCDF began HD mustard-filled bulk container destruction operations, marking the final disposal campaign at the facility. Also, the ANCDF commenced its final agent disposal campaign of processing mustard munitions.

In October 2009, CMA announced the safe destruction of its two millionth munition since Entry-Into-Force of the CWC—a testimony to the expertise and commitment of its work force.

MAKING HISTORY

For many within CMA, one of the highlights of working on the chemical demilitarization program is the opportunity to be a part of history. And history was made in 2009 when the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency accepted the Army's closure of its former Johnston Atoll Chemical Agent Disposal System (JACADS).

The NECDF also contributed to CMA's successes in 2009 by processing the last of their hydrolysate (caustic wastewater) at Veolia Environmental Services in Port Arthur, Texas. This was another significant event for the NECDF, adding to their 2008 achievement of safely neutralizing 1,269 tons of chemical nerve agent VX that had been stored there since 1968.

The CMA work force celebrated many successes in 2009 with safety always as the top priority – safety for the workers, the public and the environment.



Pueblo Depot Protects Migratory Birds

Pueblo Chemical Depot (PCD) hosts many migratory species of birds. In general, migratory birds travel seasonally to and from areas where they breed. Most birds you see at PCD are migratory species and are protected from harm by a federal law called the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

The MBTA prohibits the “taking”, harming, or possession of birds or bird parts, their eggs, and/or active nests without a permit. This means that if PCD workers find an active migratory bird nest during an operation that may impact the nest or cause the adults to abandon it, PCD will take steps to protect it from harm. Bald and golden eagles are further protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Penalties for violating these federal laws can be severe.

Not all bird species are covered by the MBTA. Quail are non-migratory species; they live on the Depot year-round. Non-native, invasive species, such as the common pigeon, European starling, and house sparrow, are also not covered. Some migratory species, such as many kinds of waterfowl, are considered game birds and can be hunted with the proper license.

Under the PCD migratory bird protection program, PCD is taking several important actions to protect migratory birds. First, because electrocution by power lines is a main cause of raptor deaths in the U.S., PCD retrofitted many Depot power poles with perch-guard triangles to discourage raptors from perching between hot electrical lines and being electrocuted. Workers also insulated wires to help prevent electrocution. Each year, workers retrofit more poles to provide even greater protection.

Second, where possible, PCD schedules building demolitions for non-breeding periods. When it is necessary to schedule demolition during the nesting season, a biologist first inspects the structures before demolition for evidence of bird occupation. This action helps ensure that no harm comes to active nests, eggs, or fledgling migratory species. If nests are found, demolition may be postponed, if possible. If an operation may impact an active nest, workers cordon off the nest site to protect it until the young can successfully leave the nest.

PCD also worked closely with the Pueblo Raptor Rehabilitation Center and other rehabbers for many years to help injured or sick birds recover. When workers find a raptor that is unable to fly, they catch the bird and transport it to the rehab center for evaluation and, if possible, rehabilitation. Sometimes birds that have recovered are brought back to the Depot for release. In fact, PCD is the release site for many birds taken in from other areas once they were ready to fly free again.



A rehabilitated burrowing owl is released at PCD.



Released burrowing owl makes its home on the Depot.
Photos taken by Lori Waters, past PAO at PCD.

Safety on the ice

As of Feb. 14, every state had some accumulation of snow—even Hawaii. Many areas of the country have record amounts of snow and ice. It is very important to be careful when walking in bad weather. Here are some important tips to remember:

- assume all wet, dark areas are slippery and icy
- wear boots made of non-slip rubber or neoprene with grooved soles
- walk in designated walkways as much as possible
- point your feet out like a penguin; this increases your center of gravity
- pay attention to your walking, avoid being distracted

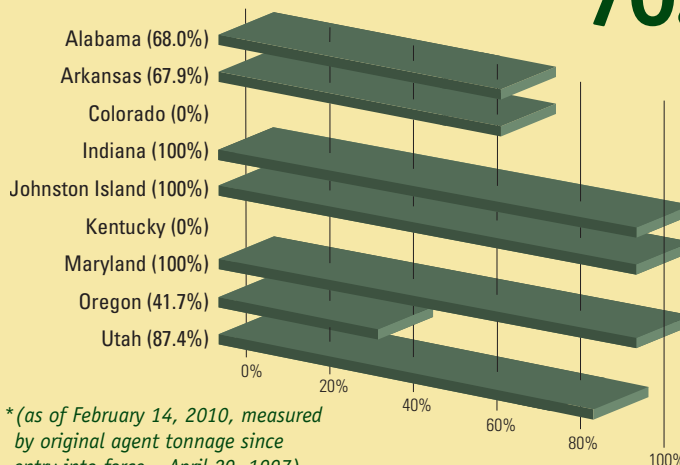
Even though we are already into March, cold mornings can make for slippery surfaces. Hopefully these tips will help you prevent a fall. **Most importantly, take your time!**



Be careful while walking when it is icy outside.

CMA - U.S. CHEMICAL AGENT STOCKPILE DESTROYED

70.1%



*(as of February 14, 2010, measured by original agent tonnage since entry into force – April 29, 1997)